

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 11122 100655Z

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 11122

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, SCUL, CB, GE, GW, AU, CZ, TH

SUBJECT: KHMER STUDENTS IN GDR

REF: STATE 127762

SUMMARY

WITH REGARD TO PROPOSAL THAT KHMER STUDENTS FROM EAST GERMANY COME TO STUDY ENGLISH IN BANGKOK, EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT LEARNING ENGLISH IN A COUNTRY WHERE THE STUDENT WILL EVENTUALLY PURSUE PROFESSIONAL STUDY, SUCH AS AUSTRALIA OR NEW ZELAND MIGHT BE MORE APPROPRIATE. IN THE EVENT THAT THE STUDENTS DO COME TO STUDY ENGLISH AT AUA BANGKOK, EMBASSY FEELS THAT THE KHMER DIPLOMATIC MISSION TO THAILAND SHOULD MORE APPROPRIATELY REQUEST PERMISSION OF THE THAI GOVERNMENT FOR THEIR ENTRY AND STUDY IN THAILAND. THE ASIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY APPEARS TO BE A POSSIBILITY FOR THREE STUDENTS IN ENGINEERING, HOWEVER, FURTHER STUDY OF THE STUDENTS' QUALIFICATONS WILL BE NECESSARY BEFORE A FINAL DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY CAN BE MADE. END SUMMARY.

1. PARAGRAPH 5 REFTEL NOTES INTENTION UPGRADE ENGLISH LANGUAGE
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PAGE 02 BANGKO 11122 100655Z

CAPABILITIES KHMER STUDENTS WITH GOAL OF ALLOWING THEM PROCEED

FURTHER ACADEMIC TRAINING IN U.S. OR THIRD COUNTRY. OTHER THAN POSSIBLE FOUR CANDIDATES FOR AIT BELIEVE IT MAY BE MORE APPROPRIATE UNDERTAKE ENGLISH LANGUAGE TRAINING IN COUNTRY WHERE EVENTUAL PLACEMENT OCCURS RATHER THAN TRAIN IN BANGKOK. PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES COURSE COSTS AND LIVING EXPENSES INTENSIVE NINE-MONTH ENGLISH LANGUAGE TRAINING, WHICH EXPERIENCE WITH THAI STUDENTS INDICATES IS WARRANTED, FOR SIXTEEN STUDENTS IS APPROXIMATELY \$20,000 EXCLUSIVE OF TRAVEL.

2. IF DECISION MADE TO PROCEED ENGLISH LANGUAGE TRAINING IN BANGKOK BELIEVE BEST STRATEGY TO FOLLOW WOULD BE FOR GKR MINISTRY FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO INSTRUCT GKR EMBASSY BANGKOK MAKE INITIAL APPROACH TO RTG REGARDING POSSIBLE USE AUA ENGLISH TEACHING FACILITIES FOR KHMER STUDENTS NOW DEPARTING EAST GERMANY. DIRECT OVERTURE FROM GKR MORE LIKELY TO ELICIT RESPONSIVE ACCORD FROM RTG. APPROACH BY U.S. EMBASSY ON RKG BEHALF MIGHT ONLY SERVE TO HIGHLIGHT RTG POLITICAL SENSITIVITIES IN BECOMING INVOLVED IN THIS MATTER. FYI REQUESTING OFFICIAL RTG ENDORSEMENT OF A USAID/PHNOM PENH SUPPORT OFFICE IN BANGKOK PROVED TO BE A STICKY POLITICAL ISSUE WHICH WAS EVENTUALLY RESOLVED ON AN INFORMAL BASIS. THIS PROBABLY STEMMED MORE FROM CURRENT COMPLEXITIES INVOLVED IN EFFORTS UNDERWAY TO NORMALIZE OVERALL USG/THAI RELATIONSHIPS RATHER THAN LACK OF SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION BY THE RTG OF THE PRESENT PLIGHT OF THE GKR. END FYI.

3. ASSUMING SUCCESS OF GKR OVERTURES TO RTG ON ENGLISH LANGUAGE TRAINING OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS AT AUA, WE WILL HAVE MORE TIME WHILE STUDENTS ENROLLED THERE TO DETERMINE WHAT PROGRAMS AND SCHOOLS WILL BEST ADDRESS INDIVIDUAL QUALIFICATIONS AND INTERESTS. IT ALSO STRIKES US THAT PARTICULARLY AUSTRALIA AND POSSIBLY

NEW ZEALAND MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN PICKING UP SOME OF THESE STUDENTS.

4. AIT IS NOW PIONEERING A REMEDIAL GRADUATE PROGRAM WITH HEAVY EMPHASIS ON ENGLISH LANGUAGE TRAINING DESIGNED TO INCREASE NUMBERS OF STUDENTS FROM THOSE SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS WHICH NOT YET PRODUCING STUDENTS MEETING AIT'S ACCEPTANCE STANDARDS. THIS PROGRAM LARGELY DESIGNED WITH THE KHMER REPUBLIC, LAOS, AND VIETNAM IN MIND. PRESIDENT OF AIT HAS REVIEWED LIST OF STUDENT NAMES AND
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PAGE 03 BANGKO 11122 100655Z

SUBJECTS OF STUDY MENTIONED PARAGRAPH 5 REFTEL. HE NEEDS ADDITIONAL BIO-DATA AND ACADEMIC INFORMATION BEFORE MAKING DECISION RE ELIGIBILITY. HIS PRELIMINARY VIEW IS THAT THREE STUDENTS IN ENGINEERING FIELD MIGHT BE ELIGIBLE; QUESTIONABLE FOURTH IN PAER MANUFACTURE.

5. FOR PHNOM PENH: POUCHING COPY OF STUDENT LISTS.

6. FOR BONN: WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING WHATEVER ADDITIONAL
INFORMATION YOU ABLE TO PROVIDE ON THE FOUR STDUENTS (PARAGRAPH
4 ABOVE).
KINTNER

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